

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DOTE-00 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /114 W

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R 290724Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7249

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 3359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE MARKS NEW FRANKFURT TRANSIT SYSTEM

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH JUSOS AND OTHER LEFT-WING SPD AND DGB GROUPS HAVE RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED FAIT ACCOMPLI OF FARE INCREASES INVOLVED IN NEW GREATER FRANKFURT TRANSIT SYSTEM, RADICAL DEMONSTRATORS BLOCKED STREETS IN CITY CENTER MAY 27 AND WERE EVACUATED ONLY AFTER PITCHED BATTLE WITH POLICE. END SUMMARY.

2. GREATER FRANKFURT PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM, INVOLVING SUBSTANTIAL FARE INCREASES, CAME INTO EFFECT MAY 26 BY AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY ADMINISTRATION AND FEDERAL RAILWAYS. LEFTISTS, INCLUDING LARGE GROUPS IN FRANKFURT SPD AND DGB, WHO FAVOR FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT, HAVE CAMPAGNED FOR MONTHS AGAINST NEW SYSTEM, ESPECIALLY FARE INCREASES. FRED GEBHARDT, LEADER OF LEFT WING OF FRANKFURT SPD, LED OPPOSITION BUT SWITCHED TO SUPPORT AFTER HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF FRANKFURT SPD EARLY THIS YEAR. SPECIAL DELEGATES CONVENTION OF FRANKFURT SPD LAST WEEK VOTED FOR NEW SYSTEM BY FAIRLY NARROW MARGIN.

3. DGB-SPONSORED PROTEST DEMONSTRATION LAST WEEK WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTENDED BY MORE STUDENTS THAN WORKERS. PLANNED

FOUR-DAY TEACH-IN AT ADULT EDUCMTION CENTER (OF WHICH GEBHARDT IS DIRECTOR) WAS CANCELLED AFTER TWO DAYS FOR LACK OF PARTICIPATION. JUSOS ANNOUNCED ON WEEKEND THAT, IN VIEW OF FRANKFURT SPD DECISION AND DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE TO DGB RALLY, THEY WERE DROPPING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PROTEST MOVEMENT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, NEARLY FOUR STHOUSAND DEMONSTRATORS BLOCKED MAIN SHPPONG STREET AND OTHER STRATEGIC POINTS IN CITY CENTER MAY 27, FIRST WORKING DAY OF NEW TRASIT SYSTEM, AND BROUGHT TRAFFIC TO STANDSTILL FOR THREE HOURS BEFORE POLICE MOVED IN IN FORCE WITH USUAL WATER CANNONS, TEAR GAS, ETC. STREETS FINALLY CLEARED AFTER STRUGGLE LASTING OVER TWO HOURS. TOLL: 39 DEMOSTRATORS ARRESTED AND UNKNOWN NUMBER INJURED. DEMONSTRATION SPONSORED BY COUNCIL OF OCCUPIED HOUSES, KOMMUNISTISCHE BUND WESTDEUTSCHLAND (KBW), AND AD HOC RADICAL QUOTE COMMITTEE AGAINST FARE INCREASE UNQOUTE.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS FIRST TIME IN RECENT YEARS THAT JUSOS AND OTHER UNLTRA-LEFT ELEMENTS OF FRANKFURT SPD HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN OUTWARDLY INVOLVED IN MAJOR STREET DEMONSTRATION. INCIDENT THUS SERVES USEFUL PURPOSE IN SHOWING THAT THERE IS DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN SPD LEFTISTS AND VIOLENCE-PRONE FRINGE GROUPS EVEN FARTHER TO LEFT. SIZE OF DEMONSTRATION, EVEN WITHOUT QUOTE RESPECTABLE UNQUOTE SPONSORSHIP, IS DISQUIETING, BUT EXTENT OF FARE INCREASE(2/3, PLUS NEW RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF TICKETS,ETC.) HAS AROUSED WIDESPREAD HOSTILITY.HARLAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, PASSENGER FARES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974FRANKF03359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740134-0511
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740512/aaaaajsj.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <09 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIOLENCE MARKS NEW FRANKFURT TRANSIT SYSTEM
TAGS: PINT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005